

a1 invention are preferably hydrocarbon-based comprised of the elements of carbon and hydrogen. However, hydrocarbon polymer is useable in the present invention can, and often will, include oxygen, nitrogen, or other elements, usually as minor constituents.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 4 18 of the specification with the following:

a2 --Guide wire body 11 is non-metallic, and in a preferred practice, polymeric. The overall diameter of the guide wire of at least the medial segment shown in FIG. 1 (at arrows 15) is approximately 0.035 inches. A preferred polymeric material for guide wire body 11 is polyetheretherketone, sold under the designation PEEK. PEEK as is used in accordance with this invention is commercially available from many sources. A preferred source is Zeus Industrial Products, Inc. in Orangeburg, South Carolina, U.S.A.. PEEK is preferred for use in the present invention because it is camber resistant, having little tendency to break when sharply bent. It is also thermally stable permitting other polymeric materials to be extruded over it without change in dimension. PEEK is also believed to be capable of being impregnated with glass fibers, *e.g.*, to alter its handling characteristics. "Camber resistant" herein means having the property or tendency not to become curved when held in a circular package while being shipped. Camber resistance could also be described as not having the tendency to remain curved or circular even though guide wires are commercially shipped in circular carriers. The absence of camber means that medical personnel using a device of this invention can remove it from its generally circular shipping tube (the device may have been maintained in a circular configuration for several months while the device was in inventory and being shipped) and still be immediately useable, *e.g.*, for catheter placement.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 14 of the specification with the following:

a3 --FIG. 4 illustrates a variation of the structure shown in FIG. 3 in which a polymer-based jacket material 70 is disposed on the distal segment 72 of guide wire core wire 74. An optional adhesive 76 may be used to adhere jacket material 70 to core wire 74. Illustrative polymeric jacket materials include, polyurethane and PEBAX as is described above.

Please replace the Abstract on page 15 of the specification with the following:

ay --A guide wire having a non-metallic, non-woven core wire is disclosed. Monofilar, polymeric fibers or multifilar helically-wound non-metallic fibers are preferred core wire materials. The guide wire optionally includes further coatings and other materials on the core wire. In one embodiment, a non-metallic distal coil wire is disclosed. The guide wire of this invention is particularly useable for magnetic resonance imaging applications.